

**RAISED BILL NO. 5201**

**AN ACT CONCERNING DEADLINES FOR THE COMPLETION OF MUNICIPAL  
BINDING ARBITRATIONS.**

Senator Prague and Representative Zalaski, my name is Ray Shea and I am a permanent member of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration. I appear to oppose the above Raised Bill. There are other ways of improving time lines in arbitration, but not in the manner in which this Bill would suggest. It is currently difficult knowing of the constraints in getting three (3) panel members to agree on a starting date for a hearing. Currently, waivers are permitted only for the reason of appearing at the initial hearing date. Following that date the parties agree to subsequent dates for conclusion and to finally bring to end the number of Issues at hand. This would, in fact, expedite the proceedings and lessen the deadlines, in spite of the testimony and numbers of each of the parties exhibits. Having done this, I can attest to this expeditious manner with the understanding that the initial hearing is not referred to as a “bump and run”. The parties would be compelled to complete the hearing. Therefore, we would respectfully suggest a rejection of the Raised Bill